THE 176 WG/JA LEGAL OFFICE
IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE
LOAC ADVICE AND COMPLIANCE

LOCATED IN BUILDING 37 DSN 317-626-1100 COMMERCIAL (907) 249-1100

LOAC VIOLATIONS MAY BE COMMITTED BY FRIENDLY OR ENEMY FORCES

YOU MAY BE CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR LOAC VIOLATIONS OR FAILING TO REPORT SUSPECTED LOAC VIOLATIONS

REPORT ALL LOAC INCIDENTS & POTENTIAL LOAC VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

MAY 2001

LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT (LOAC)

INFORMATION CARD FOR OPERATORS



176 WG/JA

REPORT LOAC INCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

TARGETING

- Civilians can never be the intended object of attack
- Must preserve protected objects such as hospitals and historical sites not used for military purposes
- If you suddenly notice target has a Red Cross on it, break off the attack, report the situation, and if time permits, ask for clarification; make sure to check with Ops and Intel
- Can attack military target near protected site if military necessity outweighs collateral damage—must always keep collateral damage to a minimum
- Any military aircraft without a Red Cross is a lawful target, regardless of who is on board, unless it is over neutral waters or airspace
- Neutral vessels may not be attacked unless contributing to enemy war effort
- Must suspend attack if target is not military
- Aircrews, unlike other combatants, are not required to wear a uniform or recognizable insignia while engaging in combat; the markings on their aircraft are sufficient indication of their status
- It is practical for aircrew to wear a flight suit or other uniform so they may properly be identified on the

TARGETING

- Enemy civilian aircraft are generally protected when flying in international airspace or over own homeland; but they may be attacked if they constitute a valid military objective; be careful however, because they are still protected as long as they're not being used for military purposes, even if we know the enemy's plans call for requisitioning a civilian fleet
- Disabled enemy aircraft are lawful targets unless clearly hors de combat (out of combat)
- The rescue of a downed airman is a military mission and may be attacked
- Can't mine access to protected sites, such as hospitals. Can mine a port even though it's used for civilian, as well as military, purposes
- Airman descending from disabled aircraft in parachutes are protected and can't be attacked; paratroopers may be attacked during descent
- SUMMARY: All targets must be militarily significant, but military necessity doesn't OK everything; the propriety of any attack depends on the nature of the target, the weapons used, and anticipated civilian damage

CODE OF CONDUCT

Article I. I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense. Article II. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist. Article III. If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy. Article IV. If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way. Article V. When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause. Article VI. I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

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